

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01

PA-01 PRS-01 /102 W

----- 115840

R 181455Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5487

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 8648

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN ENRG

SUBJ: ANOTHER BRIDGE BLOWN ON ASSAB ROAD

REF: ADDIS 7939 AND PREVIOUS

1. ACCORDING TO OIL CO SOURCES A BRIDGE WAS BLOWN DURING THE
EARLY HOURS OF JULY 12 APPROXIMATELY 130KM FROM ASSAB. ROUGHLY
30M OF BRIDGING WAS DESTROYED. REPAIR OF THE BRIDGE WAS
COMPLETED JULY 17. ACCORDING TO A SOURCE OF UNTESTED RELIABILITY
WITH GOOD ACCESS TO PMAC INFO, 12 TRUCKS WERE ALSO DESTROYED.
INDUSTRY SOURCES HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THIS LAST ITEM OF INFO.

2. OWING TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE A CONVOY OF TRUCKS WAS
DELAYED FROM THE 14TH UNTIL THE 17TH OF JULY. THIS CONVOY, WHICH
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INCLUDES 108 PETROLEUM TANK TRUCKS AND TAILERS, IS NOW SCHEDULED

TO ARRIVE IN ADDIS ON JULY 20. AFTER THE CONVOY ARRIVES, THERE SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES TO LAST ANOTHER 5-6 DAYS. UNTIL THEN NO MORE GASOLINE OR DIESEL IS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO RETAIL OUTLETS.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS INDICATIONS FROM SENSITIVE SOURCES THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE MAY HAVE BEEN A COORDINATED AFAR-ELF EFFORT. IF SO, THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATION BETWEEN THESE ELEMENTS OF WHICH WE HAVE BECOME AWARE.

4. COMMENT: OIL CO REPS STATE THAT IN SPITE OF SERIOUS SUPPLY SHORTFALLS, NO VITAL INDUSTRIES ARE AS YET AFFECTED. IN ADDITION TO RETAIL RATIONING, OTHER SAVINGS HAVE BEEN REALIZED AT THE AIRPORT WHERE APPROXIMATELY 20 PCT OF NORMAL USAGE HAS BEEN ELIMINATED AS JET AIRCRAFT ARE TAKING ONLY MINIMAL AMOUNTS OF JET FUEL AT THE ADDIS AIRPORT. IN ADDITION, THE GENERAL DECLINE IN ACTIVITY OWING TO THE ONSET OF THE RAINY SEASON HAS APPARENTLY REDUCED DEMAND. MOST OUTLYING AREAS SUCH AS JIMMA, BAHR DAR, SHASHAMANE AND SO FORTH ARE BEING SUPPLIED WITH PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES TO KEEP PUBLIC UTILITIES AND FACTORIES OPERATING ALTHOUGH SHORTAGES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN DESSIE AND MEKALE. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED, HOWEVER, THAT VERY FEW INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES ARE LOCATED IN PROVINCIAL LOCATIONS.

HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, BOMBING, BRIDGES (STRUCTURES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS08648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750249-0862
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750740/aaaabjh.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ADDIS 7939
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANOTHER BRIDGE BLOWN ON ASSAB ROAD
TAGS: EGEN, ENRG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006